

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 01087 111406Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: WATER TREATMENT PLANTS IN BELGRADE

FOR COMMERCE

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE EMBASSY'S SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE ON FEBRUARY 22, 1974, MR. ANDREJA CRVENICA, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE WATER AND SEWAGE COMPANY OF THE CITY OF BELGRADE (BEOGRADSKI VODOVOD I KANALIZACIJA, KNEZA MILOSA 27, BEOGRAD, JUGOSLAVIJA) EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CONTACTING U.S. FIRMS IN CONNECTION WITH TWO PROJECTS NOW IN THE PLANNING STAGE.

2. THE FIRST IS A PROJECT INVOLVING AN EXISTING GROUND WATER PUMPING STATION WHICH FEEDS WATER AT 200 LITERS PER SECOND INTO THE CITY'S POTABLE WATER SYSTEM. THIS STATION IS LOCATED ONLY 12 METERS FROM A LARGE ARTIFICIAL LAKE (JEZERO ADA CIGNMLIJA) WHICH IS HEAVILY USED FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES AND THUS CONSTITUTES A MENACE TO THE PURITY OF THE WATER FROM THE PUMPING STATION. THE PROJECT CALLS FOR INSURING THE PURITY OF THE POTABLE WATER AGAINST CONTAMINATION FROM THE LAKE.

3. THE SECOND PROJECT IS LARGER AND OF LONGER DURATION, INVOLVING THE INSTALLATION OF A SYSTEM WHICH WILL DRAW WATER FROM THE SAVA RIVER NEAR BELGRADE, PURIFY IT, AND FEED IT INTO THE CITY'S POTABLE WATER SYSTEM AT THE RATE OF 2,000 LITERS PER SECOND.

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 01087 111406Z

4. MR. CRVENICA AND A TEAM OF SIX ENGINEERS WILL BE IN THE UNITED STATES FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK BEGINNING ABOUT MARCH 21, 1974 IN CONNECTION WITH A PROPOSED FLORINATION SYSTEM FOR DRINKING WATER, WITH TRAVEL BEING ARRANGED BY THE FISHER PORTER COMPANY. MR. CRVENICA DECLINED AN OFFER OF USG ASSISTANCE IN MAKING MORE CONTACTS WITH PRIVATE FIRMS DURING THE TRIP. HOWEVER, THE FISHER PORTER COMPANY MAY BE WILLING TO PROVIDE THE EXACT ITINERARY OF MR. CRVENICA'S GROUP TO NON-COMPETING U.S. FIRMS INTERESTED IN THE TWO PROJECTS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

5. IN CONNECTION WITH A RECENT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT BY RIPARIAN NATIONS ON THE DANUBE RIVER THE BELGRADE WATER AND SEWAGE COMPANY WILL UNDERTAKE A MAJOR INVESTMENT IN WASTE WATER TREATMENT OF SOME \$102 MILLION OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS. QUERIED ABOUT WHETHER THIS INVOLVED SECONDARY OR TERTIARY TREATMENT, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE COMPANY SAID THAT THEY WERE NOT WELL ACQUAINTED WITH WASTE WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY AND PLANNED TO SEEK TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM EUROPEAN FIRMS. THIS MAY REPRESENT A LONG RANGE OPPORTUNITY FOR APPROPRIATE U.S.DT COMPANIES HAVING A REPRESENTATIVE IN EUROPE WHO MIGHT CULTIVATE APPROPRIATE CONTACTS IN BELGRADE.

6. THE BELGRADE WATER AND SEWAGE COMPANY IS AN AUTONOMOUS ENTERPRISE WHICH FURNISHES POTABLE WATER AND WASTE WATER DISPOSAL FOR 1,200,000 PEOPLE RESIDING IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF BELGRADE, NEW BELGRADE AND ZEMUN.

7. THE COMPANY PRESENTLY FURNISHES GREATER BELGRADE WITH SOME 5,000 LITERS PER SECOND OF POTABLE WATER WITH AVERAGE PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF 400 LITERS PER DAY. 94-95 PERCENT OF THE SOURCE IS GROUND WATER AND THE REMAINING 5-6 PERCENT COMES FROM THE SAVA RIVER. WHERE OIL CONTAMINATION APPEARS IN THE SAVA, THAT SOURCE IS NOT USED, CREATING A PROBLEM OF WATER SHORTAGE.

8. THE COMPANY IS PLANNING TO SERVE 2.5 MILLION PERSONS IN BELGRADE BY THE YEAR 2000 BY ADDING 11,000 LITERS PER SECOND TO THEIR PRESENT WATER PUMPING CAPACITY.
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